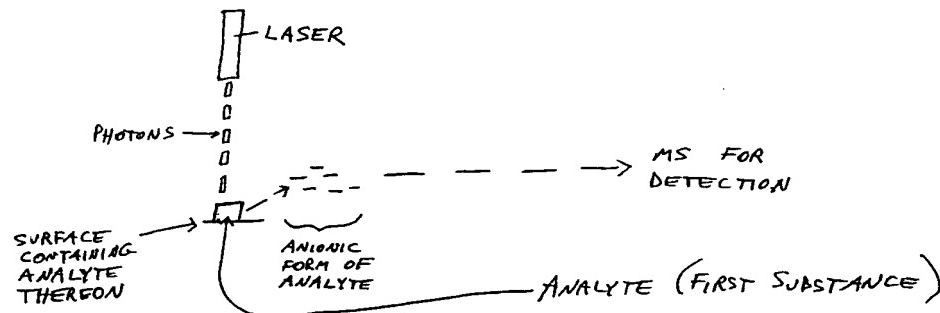
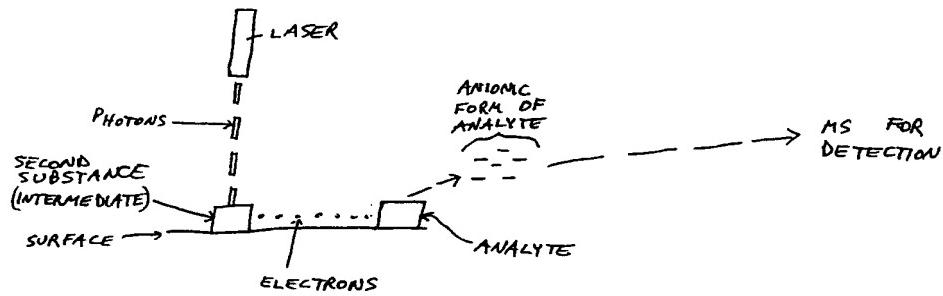


FIG. 1: LI-EC-MS

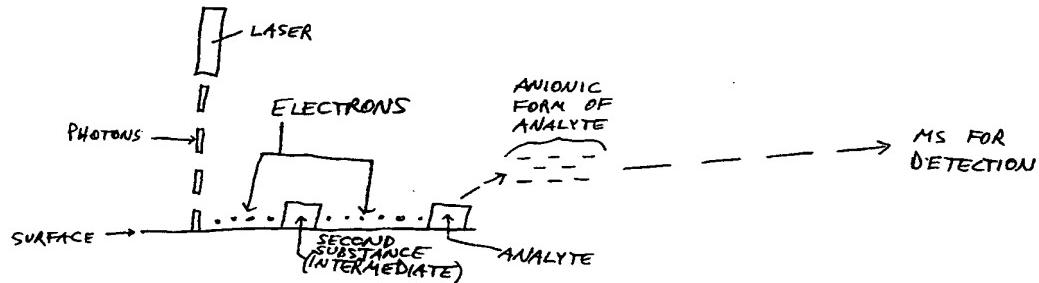
## (A) ELECTRONS FROM SURFACE TO ANALYTE



## (B) ELECTRONS FROM INTERMEDIATE TO ANALYTE



## (C) ELECTRONS FROM SURFACE TO INTERMEDIATE TO ANALYTE



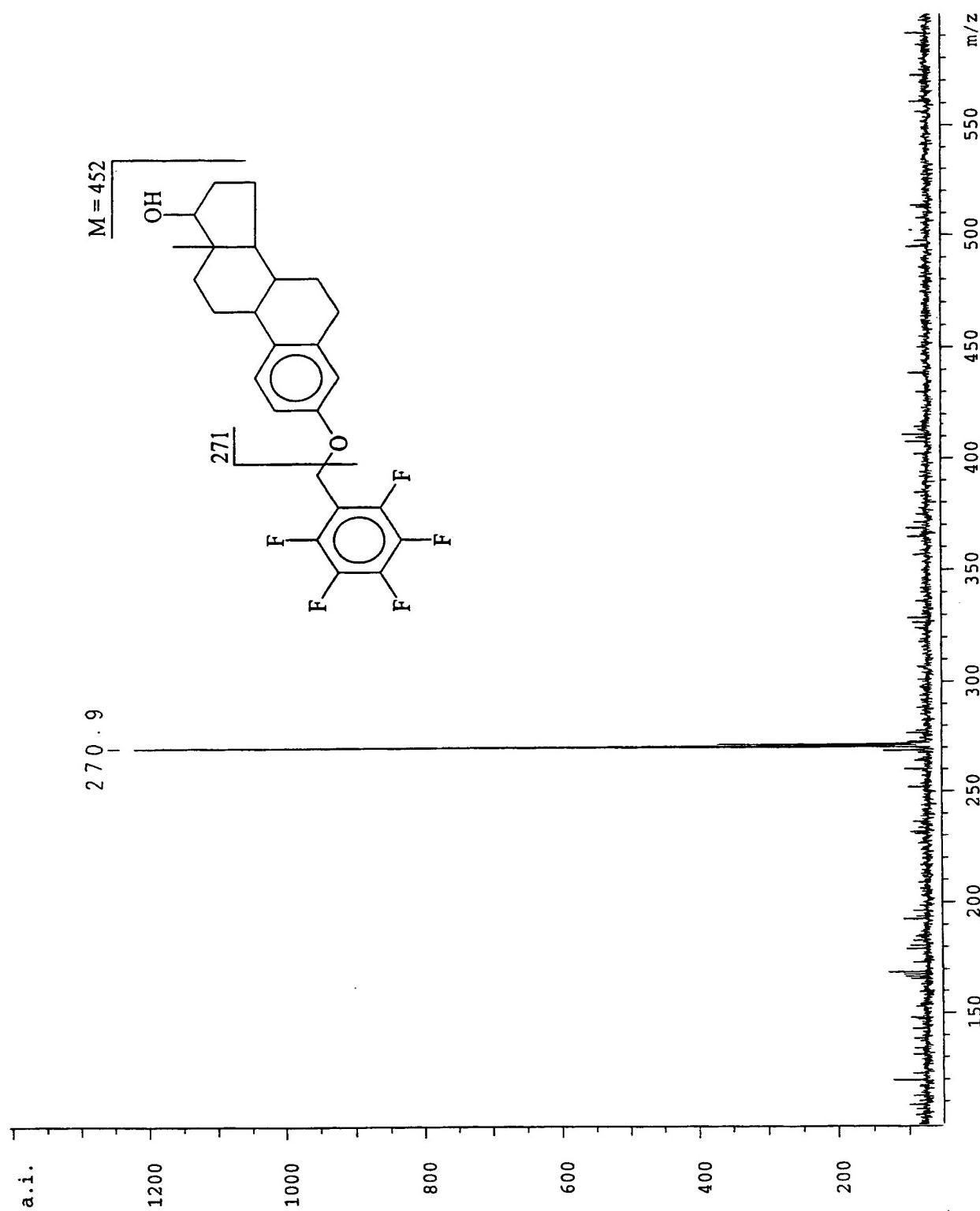


Fig. 2

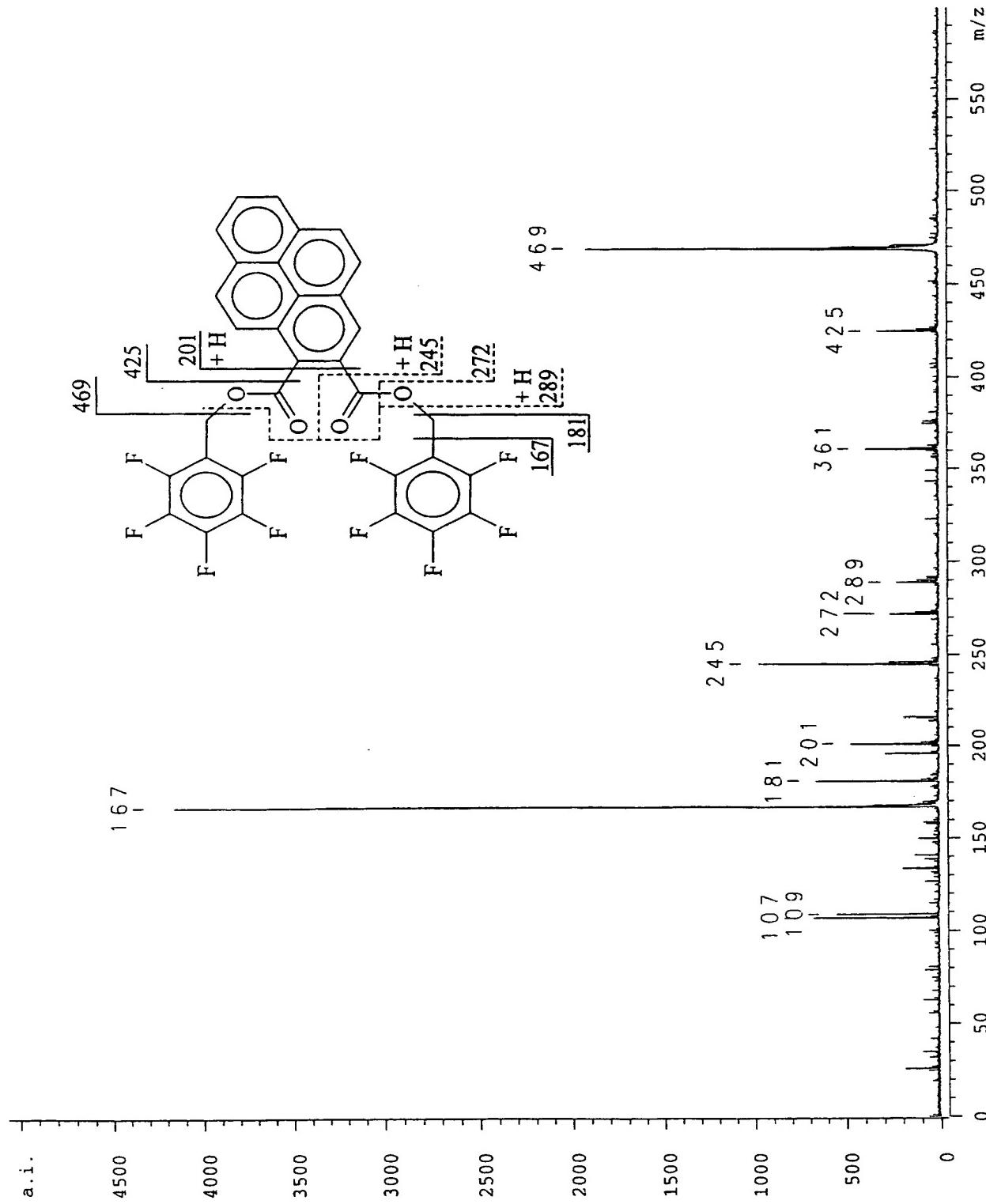


Fig. 3

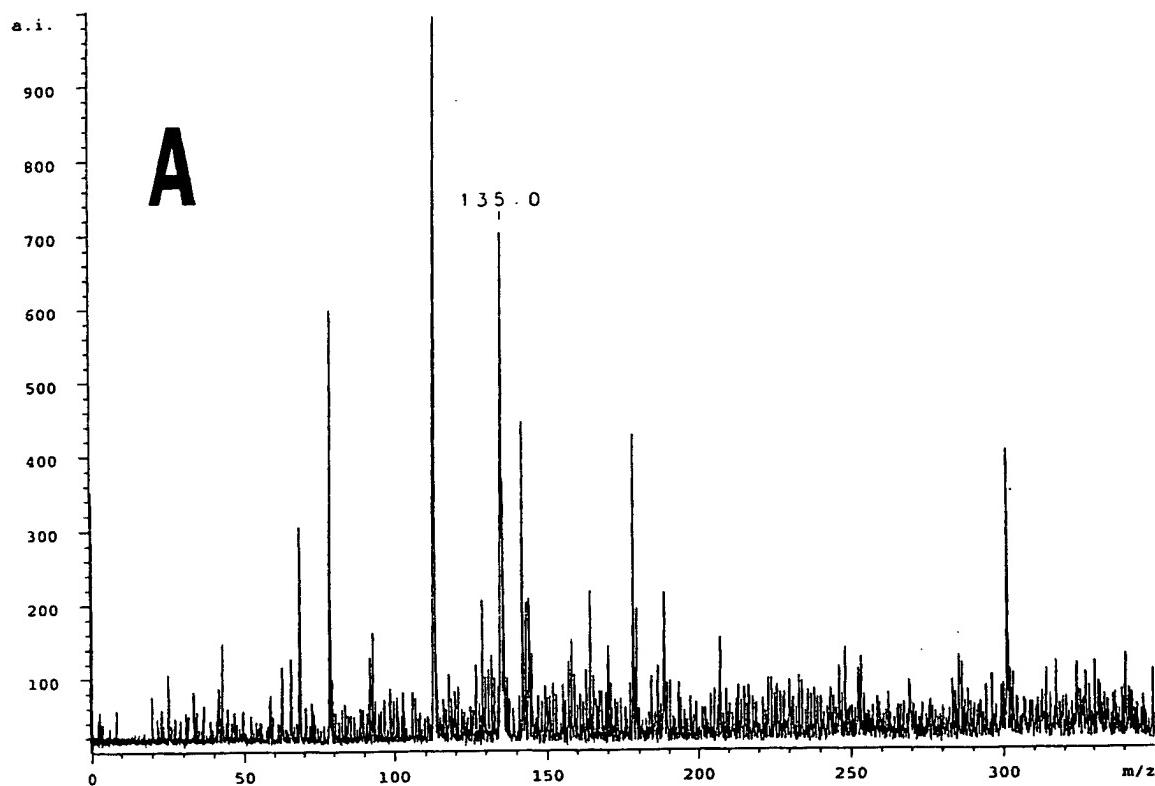


Fig. 4a

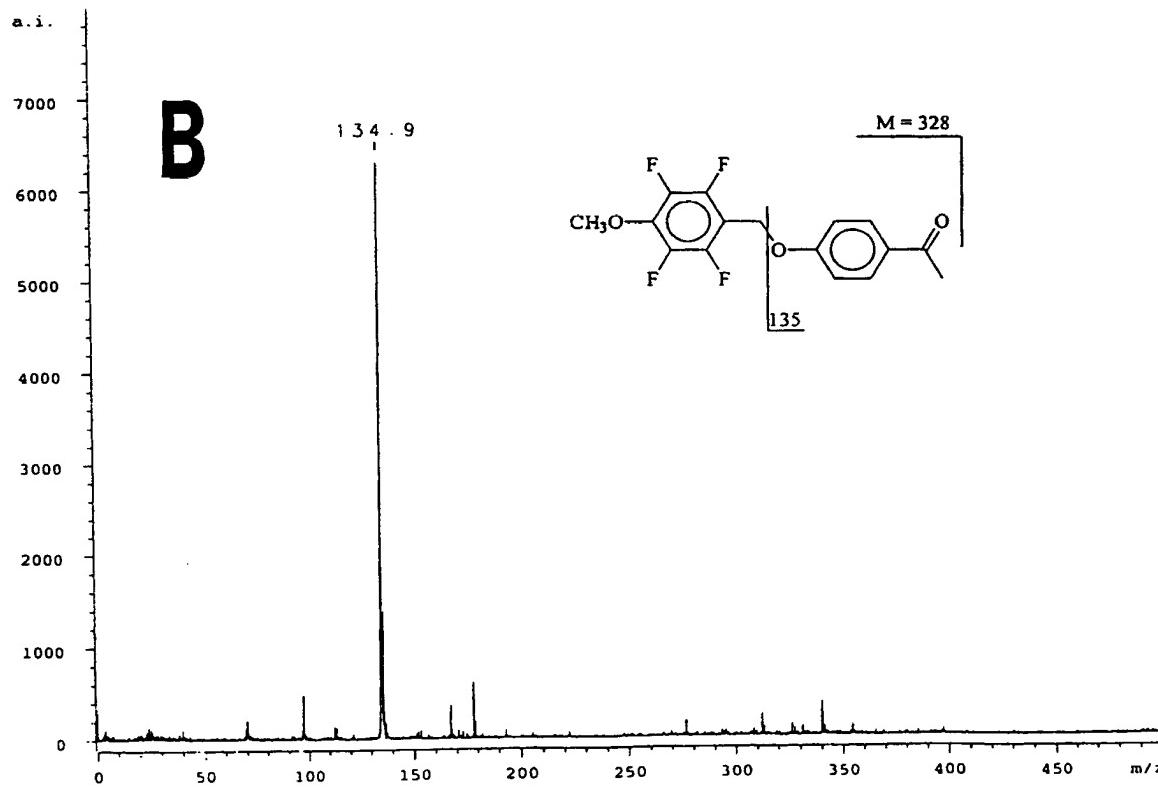


Fig. 4b

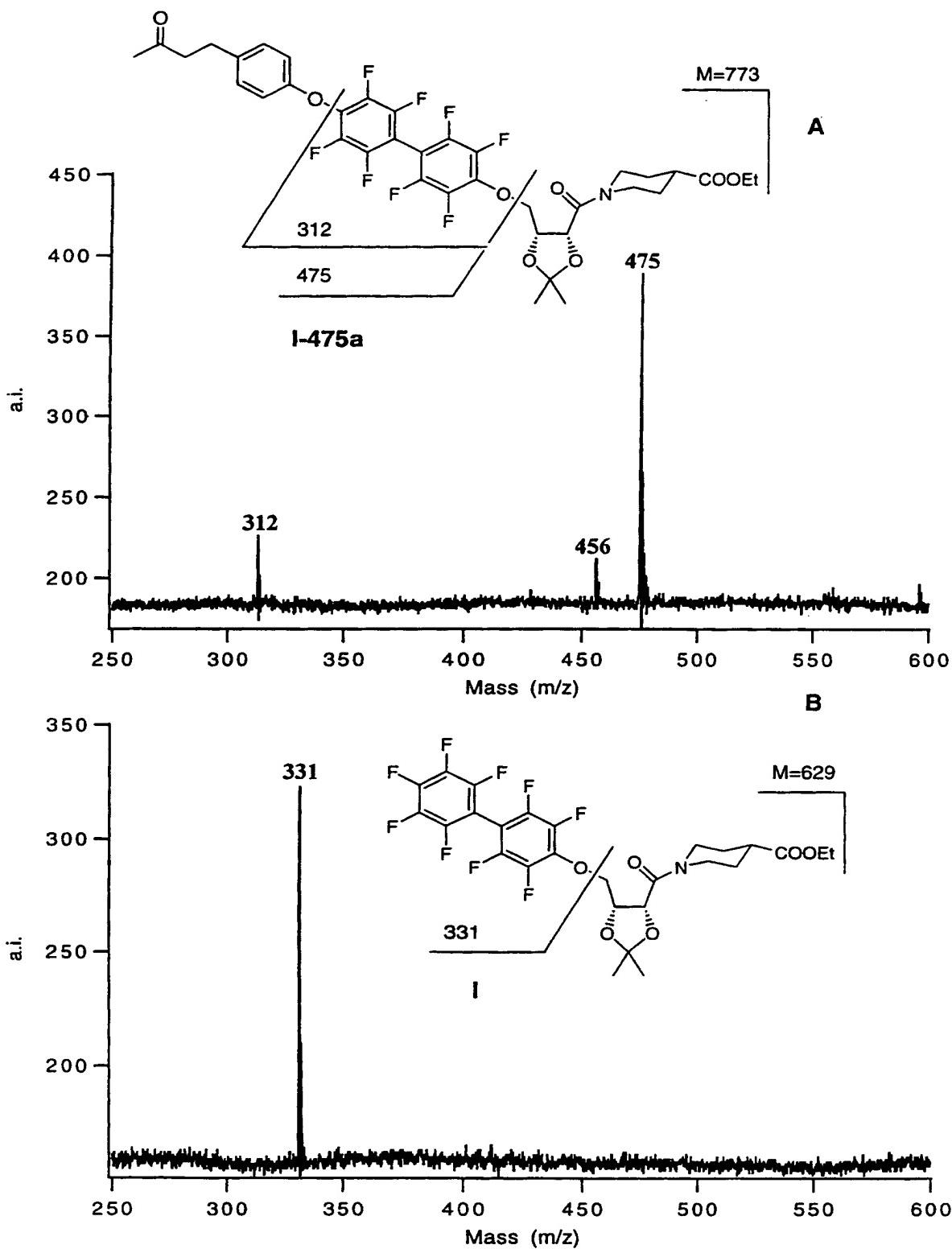


Fig. 5

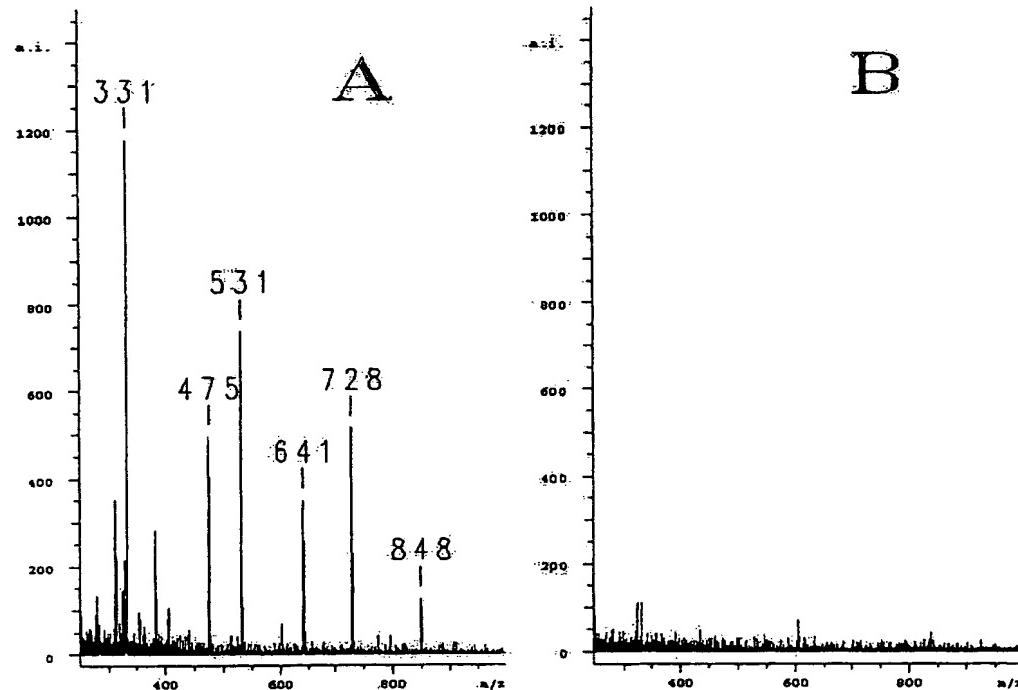
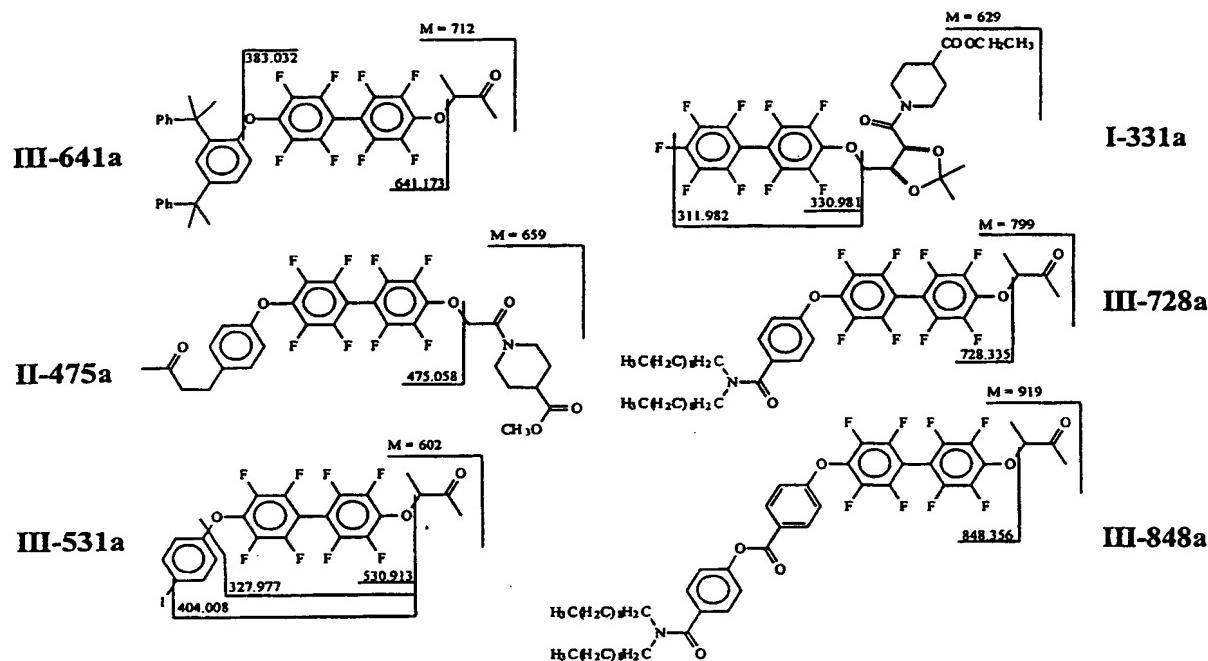


Fig. 6

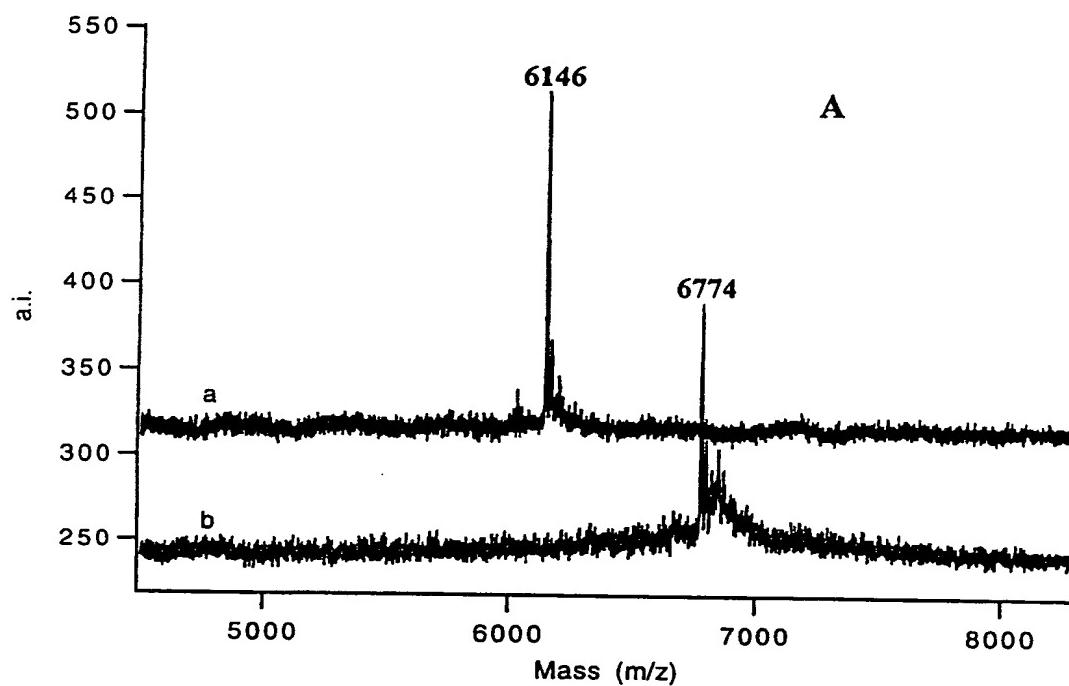


Fig. 7a

B

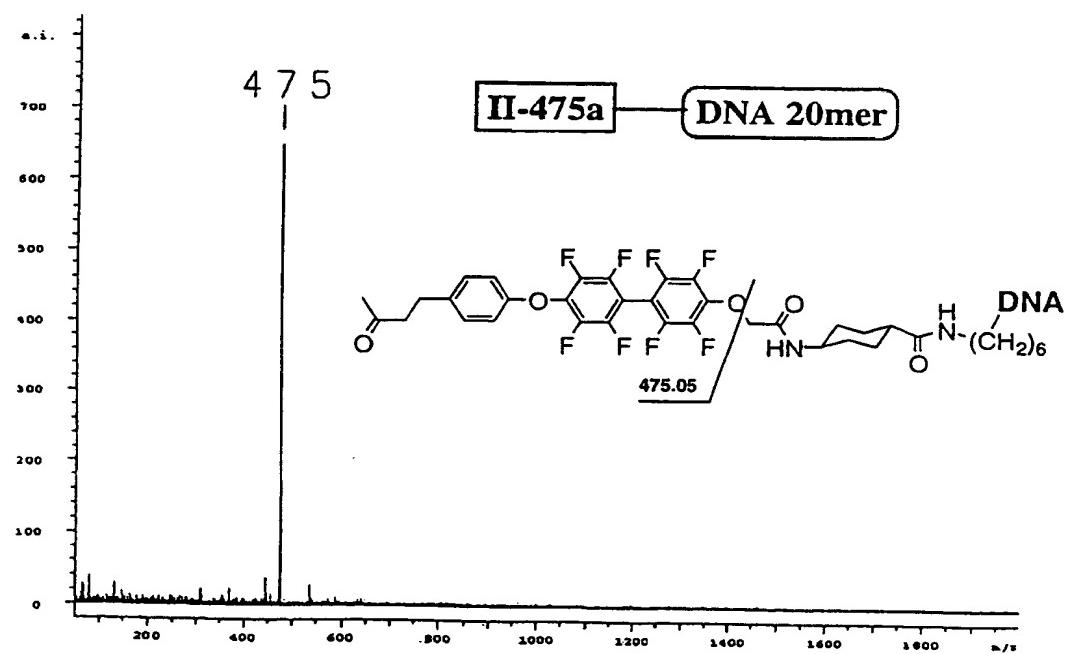


Fig. 7b

8/9

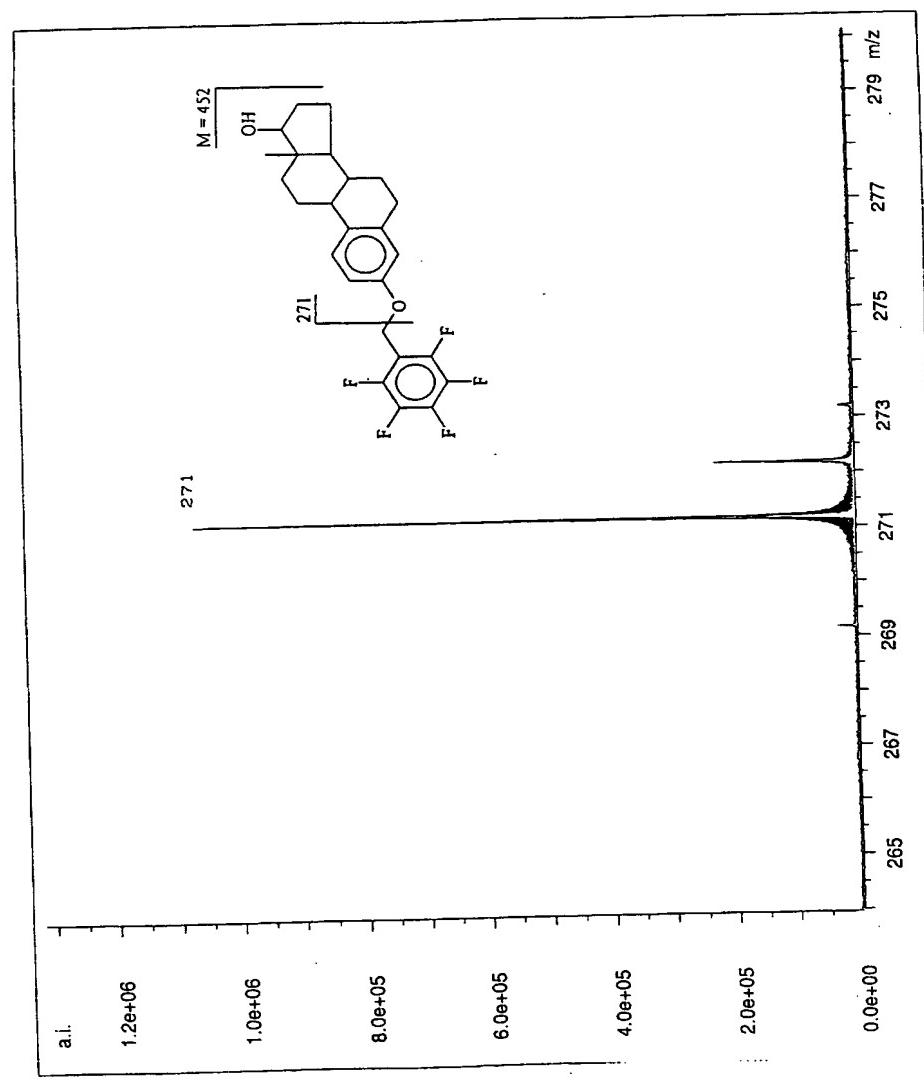


Fig. 8

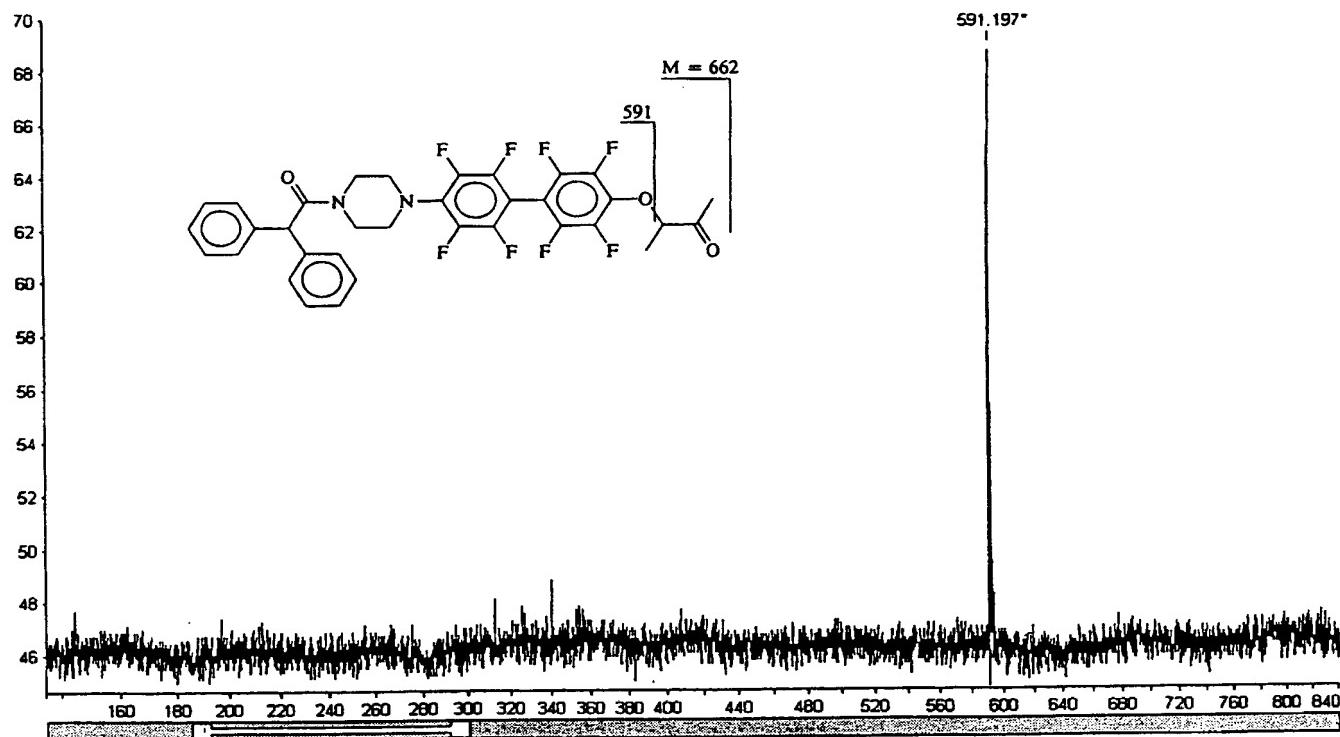


Fig. 9

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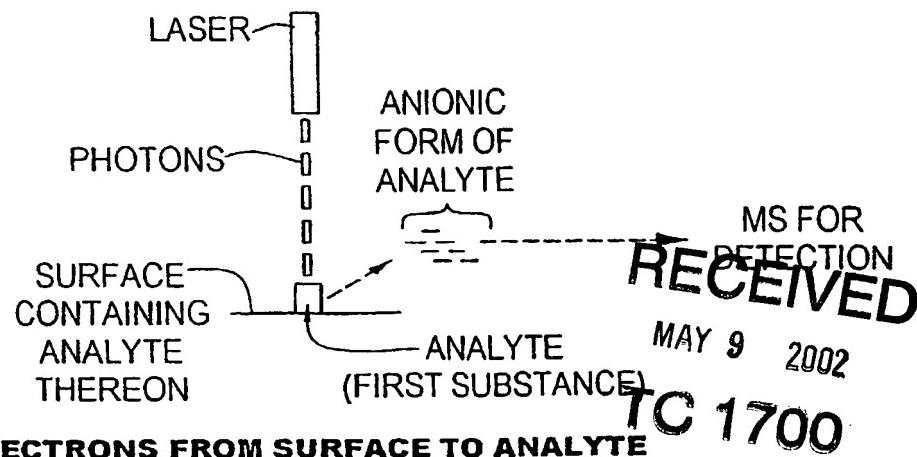
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Technology Center 2600

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(57) Abstract: A method for increasing the performance and usefulness of laser induced electron capture mass spectrometry (LI-EC-MS). Light (photons) from a light source (laser), is used to activate an electron of a surface, preferably a metal surface, where the light energy is below the work function of the surface. The electron is transferred to an analyte on the surface, forming an anionic product from the analyte. The anionic product can simultaneously undergo desorption for detection in a mass spectrometer. Alternatively, the analyte (first substance) can receive an electron from an intermediate compound having a low ionization potential which is deposited with the analyte. This gives a sharper or more intense signal from an analyte than prior forms of LI-EC-MS, but utilizes ordinary MS equipment. Further, the procedure even enables detection of species, such as nucleic acids labeled with polyfluoro-containing groups, that previously were beyond the reach of LI-EC-MS techniques.